THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir. As per available information, employment generation in the small scale sector has actually shown an upward trend.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) A comprehensive policy package for Small-scale industries and Tiny sector was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 30th August, 2000.

A study group on development of Small Scale enterprises was set up in the Planning commission and action initiated on the major recommendations.

Payment of statutory dues

5337. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jute mills are defaulting heavily in payment of statutory dues like P.F., E.S.I. D. A. Gratuity, Bonus etc. to their workers;

(b) if so, whether government have effected any action to recover these dues from the jute Mill Owners who exploit the workers; and

(c) if so, the details of the recovery and the outstanding dues for last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to recover the outstanding statutory dues of the jute mill workers, the government has resorted to various recovery action as well as prosecution action prescribed under the law.

(c) During the last three years approximately Rs. 93 crore has been recovered and the outstanding statutory dues as on 31.03.2002 were approximately Rs. 297 crore.

Cutting of trees in Bhavishya Nidhi Enclave

5338. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 10 big trees were cut down and removed in Bhavishya Nidhi Enclave, New Delhi without any permission

from the concerned authorities for construction of community centre in the name/memory of CPFC and EPF organisation around the temple;

(b) if so, whether Government would probe into the matter for cutting green trees and to punish the persons/officers responsible for such illegal action; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per records available with Employees Provident Fund Organisation there is no instance of felling of trees in Bhavishya Nidhi Enclave.

Retrenchment of Factory Workers

5339. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian factories retrenched about 8 per cent of the total number of employees during the years 1998-2000;

(b) the approximate number of people lost job during that period; and

(c) the action proposed to arrest the declining employment trend in the factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the provisional information received from the Labour Bureau, 7496 workers were retrenched during 1998-2000.

(c) During the Tenth five Yer Plan, emphasis will be placed on rapid growth of sectors, which are most likely to create high quality employment opportunities. In order to enable the poor to access the opportunities and to ensure consistency between the requirement and availability of skills, emphasis will be placed on skill development.

Strike by Trade Unions

5340. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the eight trade unions have gone on a nation-wide strike on the 16th April, 2002;